# Good Neighbor News

## Cell Phone Apps Support Teen Safety

*An internet search uncovers app opportunities for parents with teens.*

Smartphones and iPhones have entered our lives and occupied our daily activities. Our teens are the first to embrace technology and daily we hear about the potential problems. From online predators to texting while driving, we are inundated with potential dangers. Well, take heart.

"Luckily for us, there are applications that can help us ensure that our children are safe," says Paul Nunal of Android Authority.

Lately the market is filled with Smartphone and iPhone applications that can support teen safety. In a brief internet search the following Smartphone and iPhone applications were found. Some applications are free. Some have a one-time fee and others require a subscription.

**"Net Nanny"** and **"Kids Place"** are parental control software programmed to keep your family safe online. In real-time, Net Nanny categorizes content as you browse and determines the use of words and phrases in context. For example, knowing the different meanings of the word "breast" and blocking content bases on a child's setting.

**"CellFamily"** offers a way to monitor your child's cell phone and online activity. The FBI's **"Child ID"** allows parents and guardians to store valuable information about their child and has the ability to e-mail the contents to law enforcement in just a few clicks.

While "**AmberAlertGPS**," **"Family GPS Tracker"** and **"Sprint Family Locator"** can track a child through a child/parent cell phone application.

> "Luckily for us, there are applications that can help us ensure that our children are safe."

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Applications like **"Time to Drive," "iGuardianTeen"** and **"Dangers of Distracted Drivers"** help teen drivers gain valuable driving experience. Some applications explore the consequences of distracted driving and provide driving reports back to parents or guardians.

According to iGuardianTeen, "The goal is to reduce the risk of serious injury until your teen gains sufficient driving experience."

**"TextArrest," "ZoomSafer," "Key2SafeDriving," "DriveMode"** and **"Protector"** all focus on restricting or blocking incoming phone calls and text messages while driving. Some applications lock the screen or limit access; others silence the notification tones and send an automated response. While still other applications send alerts to parents if the teen tries to bypass the device.
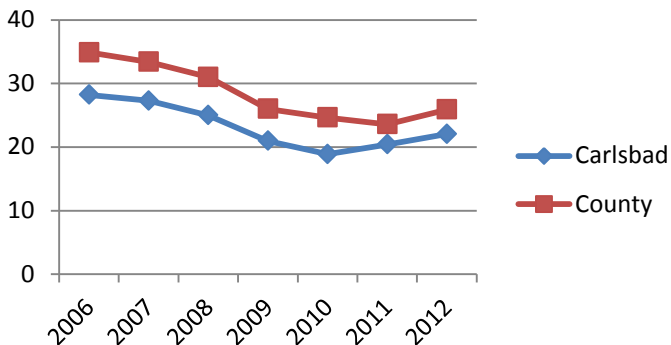
Finally **"Speedbump,"** and **"SafeDriver"** are applications that address vehicle speeds. Text messages or reports are sent to parents or guardians about vehicle speeds. The applications alert parents or guardians when a teen exceeds the speed limit.

These are just some of the many applications now available for Smartphones and iPhones that focus on teen safety. New applications enter the market daily and a little research just might connect you with a helpful application. The search just might help you address hazards you had not yet considered. Being proactive is the best form of prevention.

## City of Carlsbad crime rate remains below county average.
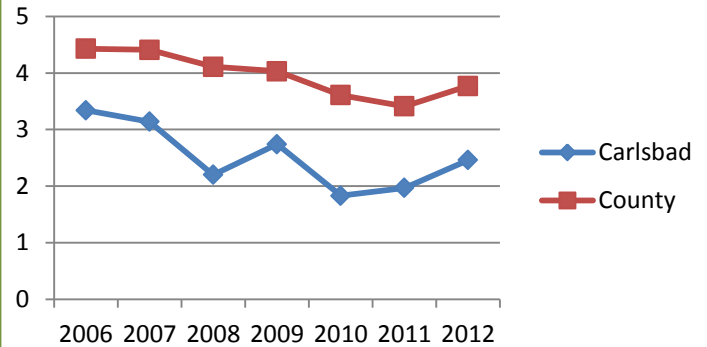
*A perspective on 2012 crime statistics information.*

### FBI Index Crime Rate 2006-2012



### Violent Crime Rate 2006-2012



Like the County, Carlsbad's crime rate increased 9 percent when compared to 2011. Yet the rate is still lower than most rates in the past 6 years and almost all rates for the past 30 years.

The past 30 years has shown record lows when it comes to crime rates. Yet, research shows a rate cannot drop forever. When crime rates start to rise, it is important to keep the recent information in perspective by looking at the larger picture.

The City of Carlsbad crime rate reflects what is going on countywide, just at a lower level. Also, the City of Carlsbad's violent crime rate has always been in the bottom one-third of the county.

This does not mean we should discount crime rate increases. It is a reminder to be vigilant. Take the time to secure property, lock vehicles and remove personal property, secure your home, be a good witness, and report crime and suspicious activity.

Together we can ensure that the City of Carlsbad stays safe and secure. Join Neighborhood Watch and visit the police department's website for more crime prevention information (www.carlsbadca.gov/crime-prevention).

### Crime Prevention Tip
*What message is your house sending?*

Your house should appear as if someone is home all the time, even when you are out. An easy way to do this is to put exterior and interior lights on a timer. Exterior lights should go on when it starts to get dark and go off when it starts to get light. Interior lights should go on when it starts to get dark and do off when you would normally go to bed.

### Measuring Your Risk to Prevent Fraud
*Take the test and take action.*

When it comes to fraud the saying, "If it looks too good to be true…" is key. Well, a website named the same has made it easy to measure your risk.

Many people aren't sure if they have been or are about to become a victim of fraud. The following tests are available on the www.lookstoogoodtoobetrue.com website. Take one of the following risk assessment tests and see if you are a potential victim.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Jodee Sasway-760-931-2105
or jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov
**Police emergency -** 911
**Police non-emergency** - 760-931-2197
www.carlsbadca.gov/crime-prevention

- Are You Protecting your Identity?
- Are You Safe from Financial Fraud Opportunities?
- Are You an Unwitting Accomplice in Crime?
- Authentic or Counterfeit?
- Is Your Child At Risk Online?
- Are You the Lucky Winner in a Sweepstakes or Lottery?
- Is Your Computer Protected?

CITY OF
**CARLSBAD**
CALIFORNIA